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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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| Applicants: | Warner Lee HINES et al. | § | Confirmation No.: | 1592 |
| Serial No.: | 10/034,898 | § | Group Art Unit: | 2642 |
| Filed: | 12/28/2001 | § | Examiner: | Q. H. Nguyen |
| For: | Message Path Bypass For Intelligent Network Elements | § § § § § § § | Docket No.: | 200302374-1 |

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED SEPTEMBER 27, 2004

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Date: December 27, 2004

AMENDMENT

Sir:

In response to the Office action of September 27, 2004, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 6 of this paper.